

Special Edition

Magic Lantern Society **NEWS**
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From: Collezione MINICI ZOTTI

Dearest friends MLS,

I wish to inform you that I will shortly be retiring from my role as “lanternist” in order to dedicate myself solely to the Museum.

Although this has been a difficult decision, it was necessary, as apart from the stress, inevitable at my “venerable age”, there is also a risk of breaking the fragile slides that are pushed to the limits by air travel; a mode of transport that is becoming ever more difficult. Anyway I will continue to spread this knowledge in conferences, maybe with the possibility of using a single Magic Lantern.

“Goodbye to the Stage” will take place at the 29th annual Days of Mute Cinema, a festival that has always whetted my enthusiasm. It is a journey almost parallel to that which carried me to the prestigious recognition of the Jean Mitry Award at the festival of 2008. The Magic Lantern Show will be in Teatro Verdi of Pordennone on the 7th October at 9 pm.

For the occasion I have decided upon a Magic Lantern Show using the most beautiful slides of the collection, inspired by the programme of Charles Helleberg of Anversa. In 1883 the celebrated lanternist showed “astronomic slides in movement, masterpieces of plastic art, the rotation of the world and other awesome effects”, fascinating the public of the age. I intend to do the same, in order to excite today’s spectators. There will be live music by Günter A. Buchwald and Frank Bockius, while the actor will be Paolo Caporello.

**A Special and Unique Event
October 7
at Teatro Verdi of Pordennone**

In my forty-year long career, I have travelled the best part of the world and have been applauded by leaders of state, ambassadors and directors of festivals and museums.

I have travelled from the presidential palace in Rome; to Paris and from the Louvre to the Musée d’Orsay, finishing at the Cinémathèque Française; to London, to Madrid, to the Library of Congress in Washington DC, to Osaka, and also to Singapore; the list would be too long to report in full.

In ‘my’ Venice I projected The Life of Giacomo Casanova at the Teatro Goldoni in celebration of the famous Venetian carnival, and it is this show that I leave as a DVD, by way of a testimonial.

I have foreseen for some time now that I would not be showing the precious hand-painted 18th and 19th century slides for much longer, in order to dedicate myself exclusively to the management of the Museum of Precinema in Padua. Since its opening twelve years ago the weight of work required has increased notably; donations, research, studies and itinerant exhibitions dedicated to the stereoscope, to silhouettes and to shadow theatre all require constant dedication.

For more information about the event: <http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://www.cinetecadelfriuli.org/gcm/&ei=taeJTNqmAYi8sAPi-ITTBA&sa=X&oi=translate&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CB0Q7gEwAA&prev=/search%3Fq%3DPordennone%2Bsilent%2Bfilm%2Bfestival%26hl%3Den%26client%3Dfirefox-a%26hs%3>

The memory of a life lived with enthusiasm will remain with me, along with the knowledge of having passionately dedicated myself to the proliferation of the Magic Lantern Show. Using the lantern, slides and original 19th century programmes, one has the opportunity to contemplate the origins of the modern visionary man.

One day, which I hope is still a long way off, it will be for my son Alberto to take over and continue the study and diffusion of everything that concerns Precinema, having remained fascinated, since he was a child, by the Magic Lantern.

And now I can’t forget to thank from my heart Janet Tamblin, my fantastic master, who, with her Magic Lantern Show, so enthused me to become a “lanternist” in my own right.

And to Laurent Mannoni who so motivates me to continue on the journey that I embarked upon those forty years ago; knowing, after having seen his Magic Lantern Show, that he has the necessary capacities to become the “best lanternist of all time”.

All my love,
Laura